United Nations E/AC.51/2001/L.6/Add.22

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
3 July 2001

Original: English

Committee for Programme and Coordination
Forty-first session
11 June-6 July 2001
Agenda item 9
Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-first session

Draft report

Rapporteur: Mr. Ayman M. **Elgammal** (Egypt)

Addendum

Programme questions: proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003

(Item 4 (a))

Section 20. Economic and social development in Western Asia

1. At its 22nd meeting, on 26 June 2001, the Committee considered section 20, Economic and social development in Western Asia, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003.

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the budget section and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the budget section.

Discussion

3. Support was expressed for the programme of work proposed in this section. It was considered that the programme narrative was clear and in line with the text of programme 18 of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 (A/55/6/Rev.1). It was considered that while the objectives of the five subprogrammes in the budget fascicle corresponded to the objectives of the same subprogrammes in the medium-term plan, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement were at variance between the two documents. Satisfaction was expressed with the inclusion of gender-related expected accomplishments in four of five subprogrammes of section 20.

01-43935 (E) 030701

4. Concern was expressed regarding the limited resources available to this programme. The view was also expressed that given the limited resources available to the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the Commission should streamline its programme of activities and focus on the areas where ESCWA had a real comparative advantage.

5. Satisfaction was expressed with the efforts made by ESCWA to reduce the vacancy rate. Concern was expressed about the low level of extrabudgetary resources projected to be available for 2002-2003.

6. The view was expressed that more ESCWA publications should be issued in Arabic so as to take into account the requirements of the end-users in the region.

Conclusions and recommendations

7. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of section 20, Economic and social development in Western Asia, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003.

8. The Committee recommended that the Secretary-General submit to the General Assembly, at its fifty-sixth session, a report on the most appropriate ways to ensure that ESCWA documents and publications were issued in Arabic, which is most relevant to the requirements of the member States of the region, as well as in other working languages of ESCWA to fulfil the requirements of readers outside the region, as appropriate.